

## **TASMANIAN COUNCIL OF EDUCATION SEAL & THE UNIVERSITY HERALDIC ARMS**

The University's Common Seal was originally the seal of the Tasmanian Council of Education, which was established in 1859 to hold university entrance examinations 'in imitation of the Oxford and Cambridge annual local examinations'. The TCE awarded scholarships for higher school education, an Associate of Arts award (equivalent to matriculation) and two annual scholarships for study at a British university. Its elaborate seal, bearing an open book, a star and a rose, was designed by Bishop of Tasmania F.R. Nixon.

When the University of Tasmania was established in 1890 it took over the functions of the TCE and the TCE's seal became the University's seal until 1901 when the University commissioned its own seal bearing the words "University of Tasmania Common Seal 1890". Seals were and are used on official legal documents such as property transfers and letters to the Monarch.

The seal design without the border and inscription was also used on letter heads.

In 1897, 1899 and again in 1916 it was suggested that heraldic arms should be adopted for the University, but nothing was done until 1936. The Registrar was authorized to hold a competition for suitable designs and in June 1937 the prize of 5 guineas was awarded to Mr Egbert Holder Harry BA, BCom. for a design including a lion, the Southern Cross, a book and a torch. This design was sent to the an artist in London recommended by the University of Western Australia as the basis for an heraldic design. The unregistered Arms were received from the artist, Mr E. Kruger Gray, in November 1938 and was then used on letter heads (in B&W) and much later on certificates (in colour).

The unregistered design bears the lion passant (symbol of Tasmania) holding the torch (symbol of equality); above (or 'in chief') is the Southern Cross (symbol of our location in the southern hemisphere) with a book on either side (symbols of knowledge).

In 1977 the University applied officially to be granted Arms, and the College of Heralds granted something very similar in 1978. There are three minor differences, visible if you know where to look. The image in this eprint is of the registered Arms.

The motto, "INGENIIS PATVIT CAMPUS" was suggested by Lt-Col J.H.R Cruikshank, the University's second registrar, and formally adopted in 1936. It is a quotation from a panegyric (praise-poem) by the Roman poet Claudian. One translation of the relevant context is: "Grow ye virtues, be this an age of prosperity. The field lies open to talent and merit is sure of its reward: industry is crowned with the gifts it deserves".

A corporate logo was adopted in 1986, but the new University of Tasmania (on amalgamating with the T.S.I.T. in 1991) reverted to the traditional heraldic arms. Subsequently the University adopted another simplified logo consisting of stylized versions of the lion and the torch.

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